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Ortoli in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, March 14 (AFP). — The president of the European Commission, Francois-Xavier Ortoli, met here today with Israeli President Ephraim Katzir.

Mr. Ortoli, who arrived in Israel last night, is scheduled to begin talks with Israeli leaders and businessmen on Monday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has scheduled a gala dinner in Mr. Ortoli's honour for this evening.

Offers reactor to Israel

M. March 14 (AFP). — France has offered Israel a 450-megawatt Phoenix reactor operating off natural uranium, Simon Yiftah, chairman of the Levy for Nuclear Sciences, said in an interview today.

Mr. Yiftah, interviewed by the Jerusalem Post, said he had advised against the reactor's capacities being finally established.

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AUTY. — King Hussein and Queen Alya watch an art of flower arrangement demonstrated by a group of Japanese women at the State Guest House in Tokyo Monday.

Cooperation pledge caps Hussein's visit to Japan

Amman, March 15 (Agencies). — Jordan River, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, King Hussein was also told that Japan would consider helping in other projects in Jordan's five-year plan, the six-day visit to Tokyo.

They also agreed to promote cultural exchanges between their countries and Mr. Miki said he would study a proposed economic and technical cooperation agreement.

The King today told a press spokesman he believed that the situation and in the movement towards peace in the Middle East "may have been relatively lost at this stage."

Questioned about the step-by-step approach towards a settlement in the area, the King said: "a few steps were taken but a stalemate almost exists."

300 votes to break friendship treaty

Amman, March 15 (AFP). — The House of Representatives tonight approved President Assad's proposal to break the 15-year friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.

No official comment on the report was available. Soviet naval units have been using the Mediterranean port of Alexandria for refuelling and bunkering.

Although the Friendship Treaty included a clause on preferential treatment for shipping, observers here believe the naval facilities were covered by other agreements.

Moscow Radio today warned those who suggested the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship and Cooperation Treaty should be abrogated that they would bear grave responsibility for the consequences.

In Damascus, Syria's information media today denounced the speech by Egypt's president as "fraught with fallacies and contradictions."

Damascus Radio accused the Egyptian leader of "obstinate attachment to the thesis that the trumps of peace in the Middle East are in the hands of the Americans."

President Sadat's decision came just two weeks before he is to set out on a tour of Western Europe hoped by the government here to result in increased trade and aid.

Israel clamps curfew on Ramallah, Bireh

TEL AVIV, March 15, (Agencies). — Israeli security authorities today clamped a curfew on the West Bank towns of Ramallah and El-Bireh after another day of clashes with young Arabs.

Residents of the two towns, north of Jerusalem, were ordered to stay indoors in mid-afternoon after demonstrations by students.

It was not disclosed how long the curfew would last.

The month-long demonstrations spread today to Bethlehem, six miles from Jerusalem, where students at a high school and teachers' training college barricaded themselves in the building after clashes with Israeli troops.

They hurled stones at soldiers and raised the Palestinian flag on the roof, but the situation calmed down after Mayor Elias Freij called an urgent meeting of the town council.

Many students and soldiers have been injured in West Bank clashes over the past month as youths stoned troops and were chased into school premises.

The Arab mayors and councils of Nablus and several other smaller towns have resigned in protest against brutality by Israeli troops.

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Poll places Carter over Ford Reagan expects defeat in Illinois primary

NEW YORK, March 15 (AFP). — Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter would beat President Gerald Ford if the two were opponents in a presidential election held tomorrow, according to a Gallup public opinion poll published here today.

Mr. Carter would beat Mr. Ford by a percentage of 47 to 42, with 11 per cent of voters undecided, it said. The survey was carried out by telephone after last week's primary election in Florida, in which the two won the support respectively of Democratic and Republican voters.

The Gallup Poll results contrasted sharply with a poll published in the latest issue of Time magazine, which gave the president a percentage of 46 to 30 over Mr. Carter, with 16 per cent of voters undecided.

In Chicago, President Ford's campaign aides warned his supporters today that over-confidence could prevent a landslide win over Ronald Reagan in tomorrow's Republican primary election in Illinois.

A victory by a margin of more than two to one could finally end the presidential hopes of Mr. Reagan, the former California governor who has yet to defeat the president in a primary.

The aides lost some of their optimism today because of the resignation of Mr. Howard (Bo) Callaway, Ford's campaign manager and a growing feeling that some Ford supporters, convinced of his victory, might not bother to vote.

Mr. Reagan, has already admitted he cannot win tomorrow's election, and has said he would be happy with 40 per cent of the vote.

Mr. Ford's publicity chief in

BEIRUT, March 15 (AFP). —

Troops were reported converging today on the troubled Lebanese capital, as two military opposition groups announced they would link their efforts to oust President Suleiman Franjeh.

Beirut Radio, controlled by supporters of General Aziz Haddad, the self-proclaimed military governor of Lebanon, announced that the Haddad forces had united with the dissident Army of Arab Lebanon.

Eyewitnesses said that the dissident forces, commanded by Lieutenant Ahmad Khatib, had linked up today with officers and troops of the Mount Lebanon command and army commando units, which earlier demanded President Franjeh's resignation by 2 p.m.

Informed sources said the deadline was later postponed until 4 p.m. after a meeting between Mr. Franjeh and the Hammana commando school commander.

At the same time, troops were reported to be moving toward Beirut from the southern town of Saida. Several sources said a column composed of armoured, transport, and logistics support vehicles had moved to just a few kilometres south of Beirut.

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the capital.

Mr. Franjeh, however, continued to hold out against pressure to resign. Yesterday he refused to accept a petition signed by over two-thirds of Lebanon's members of parliament calling for his resignation, although he had previously made this a condition for his departure from office.

Today, the legislature's chairman, Kamel Assad, described the petition as a form of "moral pressure" which asked Mr. Franjeh to make "a sacrifice which could, perhaps, resolve the crisis."

The petition, he said, was not of a "constitutional nature" and the legislature could not elect a new president as long as Mr. Franjeh stayed at his post.

"The military can perhaps stage a coup d'etat and even cancel the constitution. But

Assad: "Future of Christians in Lebanon is the future of all Arabs"

PARIS, March 15, (R). — Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad said in an interview published here today that the interim Sinai agreement between Egypt and Israel had blocked the road to Middle East peace and was one of the main causes of the fighting in Lebanon.

President Assad's interview, with the newspaper Le Monde, was to be published at the start of an official visit to France, called off due to events in Lebanon.

"I believe that the agreement has undermined our efforts for peace in the region. It has blocked our struggle for a just peace," he said.

Turning to Lebanon, which he called "an Arab country like any other," President Assad said the crisis there was due to two factors.

The first was "outside intervention aimed at facilitating the application of the Israeli-Egyptian agreement and easing the pressures on Cairo to hold it from signing the agreement."

The second was "cracks and

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Castro joins "progressivist" summit on Africa

PARIS, March 15, (AFP). — Cuban Premier Fidel Castro today began talks in Conakry, Guinea, with Angolan, Guinean and Guinea-Bissau heads of state which are likely to decide the future of the fight by progressives for the liberation of Southern Africa.

The four heads of state—Mr. Castro, Angolan President Agostinho Neto, Guinean Leader Ahmed Sekou Toure and Guinea-Bissau head of state Luis Cabral—arrived in Conakry last night for a summit meeting of which no news had previously leaked out. Before he left Luanda for Conakry, however, Mr. Neto told newsmen he was going to discuss "problems regarding our liberation struggle and the liberation struggles in Southern Africa."

Meanwhile here in Paris, a lone criticism of the quadripartite get-together was voiced by Senegalese President Leopold Senghor—almost the only African leader not to have recognised president Neto's People's Liberation Movement (MPLA) government.

President Senghor told AFP that "Africans must not go looking for big brothers. It is time we Africans started thinking for ourselves."

Referring to Rhodesia and the South African leader said,

Franjeh continues to hold out

Situation in Lebanon threatens to blow up



TAKING POSITIONS. — As the Lebanese situation deteriorates, armoured groups are moving in to solidify their positions. Picture shows one armoured patrol opposite to the Chase Manhattan bank in Beirut Monday just one block from the Lebanese Parliament. (AP wirephoto).

they cannot amend the constitution by force," Mr. Assad said.

Observers, meanwhile, said that hope generated by Gen. Haddad's unexpected claim of power last week now appeared to be dying away and the country splitting again along the same lines which have opposed each other over the past 11 months.

Christian Phalangists and left-wing Moslems exchanged gunfire and mortar fire in the new devastated seafront hotel district today, and factional militias were reported to be returning to the positions they vacated after the Syrian-mediated ceasefire on January 22.

Heavily armed vehicles patrolled the capital's streets and barricades sprouted across the city, manned by regular soldiers.

Arab League's 2 dilemmas: Lebanon and Sahara

CAIRO, March 15 (AFP). — Arab solidarity is shaken by "painful experiences" in Lebanon and the Western Sahara, Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad warned here today.

Mr. Riad called on the League's governing ministerial council opening its half-yearly session, to assume joint responsibility and take "serious action" to mobilise Arab forces and potential.

Twelve of the League's 20

Well-informed sources in Damascus said that Syrian officials were in contact with all parties to the Lebanese crisis in continued efforts to iron out the latest problems.

Several Lebanese officials were said to have arrived in the Syrian capital this morning for talks with president Hafez Assad and Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam, including Imam Musa Sadat, leader of Lebanon's Shi'ites, and two officials of the Phalangist Party.

In Beirut, the Syrian-backed Saika Palestinian movement this afternoon denied a radio report that its chief, Zuhair Muhesen, said he would be "forced to intervene" if the Lebanese presidential palace were attacked. The statement had been broadcast over the Haddad-controlled radio.

member-states were represented at the session by their foreign ministers.

Lebanon has been swept by intermittent civil strife for 11 months. In the Western Sahara, take-over by Morocco and Mauritania from Spain is disputed by Algeria.

But Mr. Riad noted that Saudi Arabia and South Yemen have reestablished relations.

The Bahraini Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Mu-

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Bite the carrot

President Sadat's decision to abrogate the 1971 Soviet-Egyptian friendship treaty has been significantly timed, coming as it does while the American Congress is debating whether or not to approve a sale of cargo planes to Egypt. This kind of move is what the Americans like to see from Mr. Sadat, and the cargo planes sale will now be easily approved, and probably followed by sales of more U.S. military equipment.

When one uses a stick-and-carrot approach, as the U.S. is doing with Egypt, one has to deliver the carrot every once in a while. The carrot will be American arms supplies that will be of a sufficiently non-offensive capability that the Israelis will shut up and watch the deals take place.

The treaty abrogation also shows the real nature of the shallow Soviet presence in Egypt, seeing as how the Russians in Egypt have come and gone according to the whims of men and the dictates of a bipolar political world.

To get the American and Arab Gulf aid he needs, Mr. Sadat has made his move and paid his price. Now the other party must keep its side of the pledge. Look for Mr. Sadat's upcoming European trip to include commitments of European arms deliveries. These will, in fact, be offered by France and England acting as surrogates of the Pentagon.

Mr. Sadat's sudden move only confirms his slow-burn shift towards the United States, and probably makes him a more predictable actor in the Middle East game. It also virtually immobilises his armed forces for the next two years at least. But this, after all, is what the carrot was intended to do in the first place.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Discussing President Sadat's decision to abrogate the Egyptian-Soviet treaty of friendship and co-operation, Al Ra'i said Monday that the most exciting point in Sadat's speech is the abrogation of a treaty which has long since been inactive and actually doomed... Otherwise, the speech did not deviate from the internal and external political line adopted by Sadat, in the wake of the October war, it said.

The Egyptian leader, the paper went on, has painstakingly tried to prove he is pursuing an independent policy between the two superpowers. "Many Arabs had accepted the logic of this equation, dangerous as it may be, immediately after the October War, but this acceptance is no longer authentic, now that the bet on a moderate United States stand has been a bet on 'the unknown'," it said.

The paper wonders that if the U.S. is not blindly aligned with Israel, how does one explain the millions of dollars and the huge arms pouring into Israel from America? The United States' step-by-step policy has resulted in a crack in Cairo-Damascus relations. "Can there be any more hostile and wicked policy against the Arabs and their problems than this U.S. policy?" it asks.

In the paper's opinion, Sadat created panic rather than indignation towards the Soviet policy, when he announced that Soviet arms in Egypt will become scrap-iron within a year or so, due to the fact that the Soviet Union refuses to supply Egypt with ammunition and spare parts.

It again asks: "In return for what does Sadat accept to transform billions of pounds into scrap-iron, when he was himself reviewing Egypt's deteriorating financial position? How can he make up for the loss, when the six American transport planes, which Egypt intends to buy, have caused all this hue and cry in Israel...? How can one risk such vast quantities of arms and weapons for

a mere promise by Dr Kissing-er?" Only the national interest should determine commitments to this or that camp. But no one can agree to selling a friend for a vague promise for an unfeasible friendship, Al Ra'i concludes.

In his daily column "flash-light", Suleiman Arar, tackling the same topic, says that one sometimes is compelled to discuss a statement by an Arab leader, particularly when such a statement has nationalist dimensions. Whenever a disaster befalls an Arab country, it hits the rest of the Arab World, because the Arab nation is one unit.

"We don't doubt Egypt's sacrifices for the Arab cause during all of history, but we feel surprised at Egypt's abrogation of the treaty with the Soviets at a time when we expected the Sinal agreement to be abolished, because it (the agreement) gave Israel access to the Canal, in addition to billions of dollars in aid, while it only gave the Arabs further division and loss of respect..."

Out of gratitude at least, the Arabs should remember that the Soviets had given them arms at a time when they couldn't afford to pay for them, while the U.S. inundated Israel with the most modern weaponry. Faithfulness is the most prominent characteristic of the Arabs, after which comes the trait of revenge. "It is quite astonishing these two main Arab qualities were abused... once with the Soviets and once with the Americans!" Mr Arar said.

Al Shaab daily thinks the postponement of President Hafez Assad's visit to France because of the Lebanese events was an extraordinary decision, indicating the current critical situation in that beleaguered country. President Assad's great concern over the Lebanese scenery is quite understandable. Syria in particular was and still is endeavouring to save Lebanon from its ordeal, before it becomes a pretext for intervention from outside the borders. This, the paper says, ex-

plains the assertion of the Israeli Minister of Defence, Shimon Peres, when he said the other day that Israel might be compelled to interfere in Lebanon if the Syrian army moves in, or if changes in south Lebanon happen in a way as to compromise Israel's security.

In a related commentary, Al Nahar daily of Beirut bitterly questions the usefulness of the so-called "legality," which "some people seem, even belatedly, eager to cling to and defend."

"We, the ordinary Lebanese, had only met death, humiliation, starvation and misery at the hands of this legality. It is the legality of the homeland which is much more important than persons. The legality—the true legality—is to rescue Lebanon from the 'legality' of murder and destruction, during the whole ten months or more. It is the legality of restoring order and security to the three million Lebanese. There is also the legality of the Lebanese army's reform movement. This is the legality we favour and support, Al Nahar said.

Looking at the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied West Bank, Al Ahram of Cairo says that following Israel's failure to set up an entity based on expansion and usurpation, the Zionist regime now finds itself at grips with an Arab revolt in the West Bank. The situation there was described by news agencies as the worst crisis Israel has ever witnessed since it occupied the area in 1967. The strange thing about this uprising, the paper went on, is that the Arab citizens' weapons are only their will and their conviction in their cause. The Israeli forces, on the other hand, possess the most modern and deterrent armaments, but still are unable "to quench the blaze of the revolt." This means that faith in one's right is much stronger than cannons and bombs, and that peace could not be achieved unless legitimate rights are restored to their legitimate claimants.



KING'S BANQUET. — King Hussein escorts Japanese Emperor Hirohito as they enter the banquet hall to attend a state dinner given by His Majesty and Her Majesty at the Guest House in Tokyo Monday night. (AP wirephoto).

Central Bank Governor reports on Jordan-Syria economic ties and Stock Exchange

AMMAN. — The Central Bank Governor, Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi, returned here Monday, from a several days visit to Syria where he held talks with Syrian officials on consolidating cooperation between the two countries in the monetary and banking areas.

A Syrian economic delegation will arrive here early in April to resume talks on the steps to be adopted to implement this cooperation, recommended by the Supreme Joint Jordanian Syrian Committee. Dr. Nabulsi also reported

that the draft project of the Amman Stock Exchange, which the government has decided to establish to encourage and enhance economic activity in the Kingdom, will be submitted soon to the Council of Ministers for approval, or modification or alteration of some of its items.

The draft was drawn up, he added, after the guidelines embodied in the report of the World Bank committee which visited Jordan early this month to study the establishment of the Stock Exchange.

Municipalities asked to submit five-year plans

AMMAN. — Municipalities and Rural Councils were requested Monday to submit to the Ministry of Interior for Rural Municipal Affairs before the end of March, their plans relevant to the expropriation of lands necessary for their projects during the Five Year Development Plan, as well as the estimated costs of these lands in order to draw up a comprehensive budget.

The plans should also specify the area of the lands to be expropriated, and their utilisation.

Letter of credit guarantee lowered

AMMAN. — The prerequisite 50 per cent cash guarantee of the value of a letter of credit opened by a non-resident here for merchandise to be imported by any route other than Aqaba was reduced Sunday by the Central Bank to only 35 per cent of the value of the letter of credit.

Labour conditions, 5 Yr. Plan reviewed

AMMAN. — The Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni met Sunday with the President of the Amman Chamber of Industry to review the economic situation in the light of the Five Year Development Plan and to study the adoption of necessary measures for improving working conditions of the labour sector.

It was agreed between the two sides that effective measures should be jointly worked out to keep skilled labour in Jordan by improving their working conditions, and increasing productivity.

President Asfour briefed Mr. Ajlouni on the industrial projects which were implemented during the Three Year Plan and the job opportunities which it had created, as well as the projects of the Five Year Plan and its goals towards making Jordan self-sufficient.

Agricultural cooperativ Irbid district discussed

AMMAN. — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Marwan Hmoud, met Monday with the members of the council of the Irbid Agriculture Cooperatives Federation and reviewed with them the aims and plans of the Federation in support of the co-operatives farmers.

They discussed obstacles encountered by the farmers with

Chief Justice off for Saudi Arabia

AMMAN. — The Chief Justice, Sheikh Abdullah Ghosheh left Monday for Medina, Saudi Arabia, to attend the meetings of the Supreme Council of the Islamic University to be held there Wednesday.

The meetings presided over by Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, President of the Islamic University, will discuss several topics relevant to the management of the University, its budget and administrative regulations.

Sheikh Ghosheh will attend the meetings in his capacity as member of the Supreme Council of the University which includes a selection of Ulemmas, Islamic thinkers and Arab University Presidents.

What's Going On

Mime performance by American mime artist Adam Darius, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 16, Culture and Arts Theatre, Jebel Luweibdeh.

Sculpture exhibit by Khairy Assad, opens today, Tuesday, and runs through Saturday. British Council.

the agricultural production of wheat. For this purpose it had established a 2 pilot station in Ram

growing of improved wheat project will help in the quality of wheat.

They also discuss the subject of the hilly region which is being redeveloped by the Ministry of Agriculture, and aims to lands with fruit trees.

Jordan tops Romania in balance

AMMAN. — The estimate at the Jordanian Ministry of Finance, here Friday, began Saturday with top and private sector to complete the implementation of the economic, commercial and technical agreements between Jordan and

Mr. Hindawi said will meet with officials of the Ministry of Commerce, the National Council, and the Petroleum Company.

Jordan's balance with Romania, he said, is in favour of Jordan, with phosphate exports to the amounting to \$9.5 million in 1975, and imports from Romania during the same period \$5 million.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

● AMMAN. — The Minister of Interior for Municipal and Rural Affairs approved Monday the 1976 budgets of the municipalities of Aqaba (JD 365,658) Sabha (JD 8,851) Bal'ama (JD 11,898).

● AMMAN. — A supply committee of several ministers and high ranking government officials was set up Monday to study the import and storage of fresh and canned foodstuffs besides establishing a responsible body to be entrusted with that job. The committee should submit its recommendations within the next two weeks.

● AMMAN. — The Chamber of Industry and Commerce, here Friday, received Dr. Louis Awad, a technical adviser at the Egyptian newspaper. The Chamber of Industry and Commerce is planning to create its administrative and technical services with the expanding industrial activities from the Five Year Plan.

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Arabian Gulf fund to aid Egypt

KUWAIT, March 15 (R). — Financial experts from four Gulf Arab States will meet in Saudi Arabia later this month to discuss proposals to set up a special fund for aid to Egypt, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Abdel-Rahman Al-Atiqi said here today.

Mr. Atiqi attended a meeting of finance ministers of the four states, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), held last Thursday to discuss the creation of the fund proposed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

He described the meeting held at the small Saudi east coast town of Khobar as "positive."

Mr. Atiqi would not elaborate but said that the experts would meet in Saudi Arabia on March 27 or 28 "to follow up discussions started by the ministers."

Press reports have suggested that Egypt would mortgage future revenues from the Suez Canal and from its oilfields in exchange for 1,000 million dollars of immediate aid from the proposed fund.

UN report warns of another European recession

GENEVA, Mar. 15, (AFP). — A United Nations economic commission warned here (Monday) that Europe may face continued stagnation of its economy during the coming year.

In a report released today, the commission forecast that western Europe's rate of growth this year would not exceed three percent. This compared to a rate of five percent from 1959 to 1960 and from 1972 to 1973.

However, the western European economy stands an equal chance of stagnation or recovery, the report said. At present, the economy is working at 90 per cent capacity.

But it will take a long time before employment and work activity can be brought to a normal level because of the recession, the report said, even with a sustained improvement in growth rate.

The danger of a new recession following a brief resumption or a prolonged stagnation should concern governments as much as the danger of persistent inflation, the commission added.

It advised that new financial and monetary steps might be required "if only to concretize current expectations for 1976."



WE WANT WORK. — A huge demonstration took place Saturday afternoon in downtown Brussels. The protest, organized by the Association of Trade Unions was held to dramatise the high level of unemployment in Belgium, now 8.6%, the most out of work since WWII.

Law of the sea conference poses economic, political, strategic problems

PARIS, March, 15 (AFP). — The law of the sea conference meeting in New York will only be decisive for world fisheries and shipping in the short run but will have much broader economic and political implications for decades, international experts say.

The 400 articles of the draft text that will be studied in detail over the next seven weeks by ministers, senior officials and legal representatives of 156 states reflect a complex combination of economic, technological, political and even strategic problems.

The question of access to fishing grounds and conservation of live marine resources is among the most acute problems, as shown by the "cod war" between Iceland and Britain following the extension of the Icelandic water limit to 200 miles last October.

Perhaps even more important, the text represents a bid to lay down rules for the exploitation, in the interest of all mankind, of the vast riches of the ocean bed in areas beyond the national jurisdiction of coastal countries.

Tapping the sea resources of oil, natural gas and polymetallic nodules — lumps of copper, nickel and other metals — will require huge investments and highly advanced technology, and the Third World countries want their share of these riches.

Developing nations fear the prospect of uncontrolled exploitation of ocean bed reserves by powerful multinational groups, which might upset the balance of world trade in raw materials. This has a direct bearing on issues discussed at the Paris conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIE) —

the "north-south dialogue" — or due to be raised at the U.N. conference on trade and development (UNCTAD) in Nairobi in May.

The Third World therefore considers the New York parley as one of several battlefields at which a new international economic order may be gradually imposed on the rich countries.

Leading shipping nations and maritime powers, on the other hand, are eager to preserve freedom of navigation both for merchant vessels and warships. This is a question of direct concern to the super-powers, and to major trading countries like Japan, one of the strongest defenders of unrestricted navigation.

It involves the question of putting some order into international law concerning territorial waters.

At previous sessions of the conference, which began in New York at the end of 1973 and continued in Caracas in the summer of 1974 and in Geneva a year ago, both sides have scored several points.

In Geneva, a breakthrough was made last year toward general acceptance of the Third World "exclusive economic zones" of 200 nautical miles giving coastal states fishing rights and privileges for the exploitation of seabed resources, as well as responsibility for preserving fish stocks and pollution in these areas.

Industrial countries with a long coastline, including the United States, Canada, Australia and Norway — joined last week by Japan — as well as the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies, have given their support for this idea.

In exchange they want adoption of the principle that territorial waters should not exceed 12 miles and there should be free passage for ships and aircraft in the area between the 12 and 200 mile limits.

Experts now agree that this bargain will be reflected in the final version of the convention being drafted by the U.N. conference. "But there will be no final text in New York," Norwegian Minister for Law on Sea questions Jens Evensen says. "If we are lucky, the text will be adopted by the next session." A fifth session of the parley has been tentatively planned from mid-July to early September this year.

The European Economic Community has failed to agree on a common stance for the New York talks but is accepting the 200 mile zone as inevitable, although it will cause problems between Britain and its partners, particularly France.

Senior experts say they fear

a wave of unilateral moves to extend fishing limits to 200 miles unless a convention is ready by the end of this year. Norway, Canada, Mexico and the United States are among countries which have served notice that they cannot wait much longer before following the example set by Iceland.

Many thorny issues still remain to be solved in the parley's three committees (1) the seabed beyond national jurisdiction, (2) the limits of jurisdiction and (3) preservation of the marine environment scientific research and transfer of technology — the least controversial issues.

The committee still has to agree on the powers of a proposed international authority that would manage the resources of the ocean depths in the interest of the international community as a whole — the U.N. General Assembly declared in 1970 that these resources are "the common heritage of mankind."

Super-powers and the industrial countries want such an authority to have committed jurisdiction. The Third World countries and smaller western nations feel that a strong body with supranational powers is needed. Hard bargaining is also expected on other issues such as that to be played by private enterprise and the international share of seabed resources.

The committee still has to strike a balance between rights and duties of the coastal countries in the 200 mile economic zone, and settle the even more tricky problem of passage through straits and archipelagos.

Experts have proposed a compromise formula that would meet both the demand for free passage, pressed by Japan and other major shipping nations, and the notion of "innocent passage," requiring warships to give prior notice of their sailing schedule and peaceful intentions, which is advocated by countries located on straits, like Malaysia.

Leading archipelago countries like the Philippines and Indonesia consider that the sea between their hundreds of islands must be considered as territorial waters.

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ECONOSCOPE

Stop that labor hemorrhage

By Jawad Ahmad

One of the basic causes of inflationary pressures in Jordan is the constant migration of labour to neighbouring Arab countries. The reason is that wage temptations abroad are too much to resist.

The wage differential between Jordan and oil-producing Arab countries is greater than the inconvenience cost and opportunity cost of moving abroad.

No doubt that the continuous migration of labour is fraught with adverse effects on the Jordanian economy. A solution must be found and put into effect by whatever means needed to make it binding.

However, I do not preach here a solution where every labourer is coerced into staying. Coersion will only add fuel to the labourer's burning desire to move abroad, and this, in turn, will move his performance to the world of "diminishing returns."

Nor do I claim that I have an instant solution or panacea that can return affairs to "business as usual."

The problem requires serious planning and shrewd implementation. Understanding the nature of the problem can help resolve it.

Let me start by the a priori assumption that no Jordanian labourer would prefer emigration to staying at home. He does that when he is highly tempted or when his economic conditions at home reach a minimum at which he can no longer maintain a decent living. Therefore, an improvement of the labourer's economic conditions at home will weaken the motive to go abroad.

However, improving economic conditions by salary increases which fall short of price increases is not going to solve the problem. Salary increases are extremely costly to the government and extremely cheap to individuals. An example is the last cost-of-living allowance given by the government to its employees.

Each one was given the meager increase of 48 dinars a year, while 1 to the government was the dear sum 1 million dinars. This is truly an economic lemma which leaves both parties as losers as they used to be. In terms of sacrifice that increase was a sheer dead loss.

What makes salary increases a futility for labour hemorrhage is that there are no more affected by money. Money illusion means that labourers nominal increases in their incomes increase, and behave accordingly. Salary increase whose magnitude is less than the rate of inflation will not please them.

The sad aspect of labour migration is the more skilled labourers are hand-picked by neighbouring Arab countries. If we can devise a courageous motives whereby people are ranked according to efficiency, the better labourers would stay at home.

To continue our wages policy on assumption of labour homogeneity is a proper approach; unless we begin preferential treatment on the basis of our best workers will continue emigrate.

There is no need to go into details of the gigantic cost involved. Therefore, I propose two solutions to the problem. The first is to stop nominal salary increases, particularly by the government, and to start giving employment assets such as housing or land. Housing, for instance, is very expensive and only few can afford it. In addition, the ownership of a house gives the feeling of stability not many are willing to give up.

The second proposed solution is a new merit system whereby the entrusted with the top ranking jobs are rewarded according to the old system of seniority has to be amended to retain the young and productive bloc economy.

Talks between Iran, oil companies postponed

TEHERAN, March 15 (R). — Talks between the government and western oil companies for the revision of the 1973 oil agreement have been postponed until after the Easter holidays, a spokesman for the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said today.

The spokesman said negotiators from both sides met on Thursday and agreed to resume discussions after "Nauruz" the Persian new year, and Easter holidays.

The Persian New Year Holidays begin on March 21.

\$40m from Kuwait for African development

KUWAIT, March 15, (R). — Kuwait has decided to give \$40 million to a special Arab fund for African economic development, a government spokesman said here today.

The spokesman did not give further details, but observers believed the money would be deposited with the Khartoum-based Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

The bank was set up in 1973 with a capital of \$231 million and approved its first loans totalling \$85.5 million to 13 countries, last September.

LONDON MARKET REPLY

The market closed steady to mixed Monday a session which began cautiously on currency market dealer's said.

Government stocks were lower by up to 1/4 p long dated issues. Shorts lost up to 11 where chances to show small gains at the close.

Oils were generally easier while banks were 1 to 1 1/2 p.

Australians were off the top, but with a firm up French stocks eased slightly on the decision to the French franc from the European joint float.

At 15.00 the F.T. index was up 1.1 at 411.1.

Rugby Portland Cement fell 2-1/2p after its results to record net falls included EMI and marked banks lower after press comment with a fall in oil prices up to 6p, although BP recovered its own by the close.

A quietly firmer tobacco sector was headed 7p on selective buying interest.

Other leading equities to gain slightly by the close Courtauld, Bowater, Reed, ICI, Glaxo, Gec, TI and Beecham.

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مكتبة النخيل

OSCOPE for hemom Naked-generation

(AP). — He feeds the exhibition. The lady attend feed his body, ant did not want to let in the isfy his mind, dre use in which his ld hang and lives icle painting in the he said.

"What's your name?"
"Petr Halak."
"Congratulations, you won the first prize," the old lady said.

He was awarded the Prix Douanier Rousseau, for his collection and the Litomerice gallery bought one for 3,000 crowns (roughly 300 dollars).
He won the right to independent exhibition at the next triennale in 1975. The last was the best reward, he thought, until he learned there would be no 1975 triennale.

In spite of winning the primitive art prize, Halak does not regard himself as a primitive artist. He simply does not have the appropriate schools which would gain him automatic admission into the Czech Union of Artists and with it the right to claim exhibition and studio space. He is a self-made artist, and critics say his vision can be described as metaphysical but not native or dilettante.

For Halak painting is not only self-expression, it is a quest for something which is beyond the reach of his lonely naked men and women. He paints them in multitudes, all so alike, and running away toward something.

Like many young Prague intellectuals Halak professes to be satisfied with his manual job which provides enough money while leaving his mind "uncluttered for art." He paints mostly on canvases leaving the background to dry well before putting in his figures for which he uses fine hair-brushes.

A philosopher of sorts, Halak will not be drawn into discussion of the meaning of his pictures. But when Czech critic Jiri Masin said his naked figures reminded him of Delvaux, the sky and clouds of Magritt and construction of space and architecture of de Chirico, he met with blank incomprehension. Petr did not even know the names.



PETR HALAK WITH HIS PAINTING. — The 104x149 inch oil painting portrays deep green foliage, and on the horizon a bright blue sky, doll-like figures in foreground duplicated in the left upper part. In both cases two figures surreptitiously escape from the crowd. (AP wirephoto).

The bestseller—the Bible

NEW YORK, (AP). — In the cold, hard, material world of book selling, there is nothing like the Bible. The Word sells like nothing else. It beats sex, diet, money and fad books. It has no equal, year after year.

A best seller, according to the American Booksellers Association, might be purchased by as few as 25,000 buyers or up to more than one million, depending upon the manner of selling, the subject matter, the type of cover.

In hardcover, "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" sold more than one million copies. In softcover, the current best seller is "Jaws," with sales of more than 8.5 million copies.

But, asserts a publisher of Bibles, sales in the United States of Old and New Testaments this year might total 15 million copies through retail outlets. That is the estimate of Collins-World of Cleveland, and its parent, William Collins Sons & Co., Ltd.

The Bible business is much larger than that, however, another 25 million Bibles and New Testaments will be distributed in the U.S. by Bible societies and various organizations who contract with publishers for special editions.

According to the American Bible Society, a modern language "paraphrased" edition, "Ken Taylor's Living Bible," has sold 18 million copies in less than five years. It is published by Tyndale House and distributed by Doubleday.

The Bible Society says that since 1966 it has distributed around the world some 49 million copies of its modern English New Testament, "Good News for Modern Man." Next year it will come out with a complete Bible, "The Good News Bible."

While it is true that many of these copies are given away free—the American Bible Society says, it has never made a penny on the sales of Scriptures, selling instead at cost—this is big business.

The Gideons, the organization of Christians whose mission is to place Bibles in hotel and motel rooms, must contract with National Publishing, Philadelphia—for its editions even though it never sells them at retail.

Free distribution is common. Owners of Days Inn, a motel chain, distributed 100,000 free copies in 1973 and a similar number in 1974, according to the Bible Society.

Free distribution is also the policy of Jim Reed and his Las Vegas Resort Chaplaincy. He reportedly has given out 30,000 copies along the Strip. And another ministry provides thousands of free copies to race-track workers.

Nevertheless, there is a tremendous demand from people who are willing to pay for their copies, said Peter Lloyd-Taylor, executive vice president of Collins-World, which together with its parents claims to be the world's biggest Bible publisher.

"Surveys of some religious bookstores show a 30 to 40 per cent sales increase this year," he said, attributing it to these factors:
— "In worrisome times, people look for answers and for comfort. Many people find both in the Bible."
— The growing evangelical movement, "which flows across denominational lines."

— An awareness and interest by the general public in so-called self-help and self-improvement books, which dominate both the hardcover and paperback book lists. "The Bible is the No. 1 self-help book."

While sales are a nationwide phenomenon, the so-called Bible belt, with its heart in Tennessee, still accounts for a major share of the Bibles sold in this country. Southern California is another strong market.

In areas of the South, Southeast and Southwest, said Lloyd-Taylor, some families have as many as 15 Bibles. Churches give them as awards. Service organizations give them to entire graduating classes. Many individuals, he said, buy editions of every Bible in order to compare them.

Which makes the big problems—Collins-World, Thomas Nelson & Co., of Nashville, National Publishing, Tyndale House, and A. J. Holman, Philadelphia—heavily insulated against the vicissitudes, the recessions, of life.

Tonight's TV Features

JUSTICE
THE WHOLE TRUTH?
Tiger Lawson, a notoriously tough criminal has been found with a gun in his pocket and housebreaking tools in the boot of his car. The police who had been after him for a long time want to make sure that this time he gets a guilty verdict. Harriet Peterson appears for the prosecution.

SWITCH
THE COLD WAR CON
Pete's girlfriend is kidnapped by slave traders. Pete and MacBride concoct a plan and save the girl.

BARBARY COAST
JESSIE WHO
An outlaw by the name of Jessie terrorises Barbary County with his stealings. Cash and Cable set out to trap him.

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The Diplomat
First Circle, Jebel Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, snack bar, coffee shop, patisseries. Oriental and European specialities.

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Television

3 & 6:	CHANNEL 6:
7.30 News in Hebrew	7.45 Varieties
8.30 Doctor in the house	9.00 Science report
9.10 Justice	10.00 News in English
10.15 Switch (on both channels)	

Amman Airport

ARRIVALS:	DEPARTURES:
8.30 Bangkok Bahrain	9.30 Kuwait (KAC)
9.30 Beirut	16.15 Cairo
16.30 Paris	16.30 London
16.55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt	17.20 Rome
17.45 Beirut (MEA)	18.30 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
18.40 Muscat	

Radio

[ON 856 KHZ]
7.00 Breakfast show
7.30 News Bulletin
7.45 Morning melodies
8.00 Sign off
12.00 Pop session (part I)
13.00 News Summary
13.03 Pop session (part II)
14.00 News Bulletin
14.10 Radio Magazine
14.30 Good Vibration
15.00 Classical music
15.30 Light Instrumentals
16.30 Easy Listening
17.00 Music
18.00 News Summary
18.05 Listener's Choice
18.30 Science Report
19.00 News Bulletin
19.10 News Reports
19.30 Sign off

Market Price

Apples (Golden) : 140—180	Peas : 160—210
Apples (Starken) : 140—180	Spinach : 50—80
Apples (Double red) : 200—250	String beans : 220—300
Bananas : 150—190	Tangerines : 60—90
Cabbage (local) : 40—55	Tomatoes : 65—85
Cabbage (foreign) : 50—80	
Cauliflower : 60—80	
Carrots (yellow) : 50—70	
Cucumbers (small) : 160—210	
Cucumbers (large) : 80—120	
Eggplant : 140—180	
Grapefruit : 40—60	
Green walnut : 300—380	
Garlic : 50—80	
Lettuce (large) : 60—80	
Lettuce (small) : 30—50	
Lemon : 70—100	
Horse beans : 140—170	
Hot pepper : 400—550	
Marrow (small) : 140—190	
Marrow (large) : 80—120	
Oranges : 80—110	
Onions : 140—200	
Potatoes (Egyptian) : 80—110	
Potatoes (local) : 80—110	

Tonight's Emergencies

DOCTORS:
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Dr. Sulayman Hyasat : Tel. 25015
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Omar : (42737)
Sabbagh : (23157)
TAXIS:
Taxina : (44660)
Khayyam : (41541)
Burg : (21028)

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Bids will be accepted until Wednesday, March 17th, 1976.

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French go-it-alone decision on franc throws European exchanges into turmoil

OWDvt mtr(ahpetha — PARIS, March 15 (Agencies). — The French franc today left the European snake (joint float), dropped more than five per cent against the dollar on the London mart before improving to 2.3 per cent, and turned last

Curfew in Ramallah, Bireh

(Continued from page 1) soldiers and Israeli settlement in the West Bank. But today's demonstration was the first major incident at Bethlehem.

Arab unrest over the possibility that Jews might be allowed to pray near the revered Al Aqsa Mosque broke out again today as Moslem students took to the streets in Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem.

Police moved them from a crowded market place and they streamed through the narrow alleys of the ancient city.

Yesterday, Israeli soldiers fired in the air to disperse rioting school children in Ramallah and El-Bireh security sources said.

The youngsters surged through the towns, breaking shop windows and attacking shopkeepers, residents said. They burned vehicle tyres in the main streets and threw stones at soldiers.

Most students also stayed away from classes in Yulkarm, Jericho and Jenin yesterday, West Bank sources said.

The strike of pupils in Nablus went into its 10th day today.

Assad: "Future of Christians..."

(Continued from page 1) faults in Lebanese society." On the future of Lebanon's Christians he said: "The future of Christians in Lebanon is the future of all Arabs."

President Assad said Syria had not yet taken a decision on the renewal of the mandate of United Nations troops on the Golan Heights next May, adding that the Arab states, even without Egypt, were stronger than Israel.

Reagan defeat expected

(Continued from page 1) In Washington, the FBI is looking into an alleged terrorist plot to assassinate President Ford and Mr. Reagan at the Republican Party convention this summer, it was announced today.

According to the daily Chicago Tribune, the information came from a member of the "violent underground in Northern California."

November's Rambouillet monetary pact into a nostalgic memory.

In a dramatic pre-dawn announcement from Brussels, France admitted it could no longer pour out huge sums defending its currency, whose vulnerability became clear after the slide by the lira and pound and the devaluation of the peseta.

Renewed inflationary pressure in France, and the prospect of imports beating exports as the business pace quickened, finally got the better of a currency that had stood up bravely since the oil price hike of autumn 1973.

All last week French commentators had been charging Britain with deliberately devaluing to boost its exports at

Arab League's two dilemmas

(Continued from page 1) barak Al Khalifa, chairman of the session called for a "scientific analysis of recent Lebanese events to avoid a repetition elsewhere, and the search for a Saharan solution to avoid "catastrophe."

The session will discuss dialogue with Europe, cooperation with Africa, the future of the French Red Sea Territory of the Afars and Issas (Djibouti), and organisation of the next Arab summit.

New topics were also added today, including "Israeli aggression" against the revered Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, and organisation of a summit to "save" Greek Catholic Hilarion Capucci of Jerusalem, sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by an Israeli court in December, 1974.

In the Western Sahara the Prime Minister of the newly-proclaimed Democratic Arab Republic of the Sahara called on the Arab League Ministers to support his government's fight against the takeover of the Western Sahara by Morocco and Mauritania.

other countries' expense.

The French claimed that their currency came into the "front line" because sterling dropped around five per cent. But dealers in London today declared that the French franc had been in difficulties before sterling weakened further, and that the re-adjustment reflected differing inflation rates from country to country.

Two other sick currencies of Europe — the lira and the pound sterling — also took a buffet on currency markets today.

The lira hit a new all-time low in Milan when it quickly fell to 817 to the dollar; in London sterling weakened to 1.9200 dollars, and dealers reported that the currency apparently needed further Bank of England support.

The finance ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) were meeting in Brussels as the Benelux countries left the "mini-snake." This allowed the Belgian, Dutch and Luxembourg currencies to float within a 1.5 per cent margin within the main snake, whose limits are 2.25 per cent.

Today's decision was followed by a statement by Minister Fourcade that France would "hold" the franc, and did not intend to let it fall in order to help French exports.

Mr. Fourcade also looked for the setting up of a new system containing all nine of the EEC currencies, "to avoid a disastrous trade war."

In Zurich there was talk of the Belgian, Danish and Swedish currencies being devalued or allowed to float. This was seen as a likely cause of further drops in the pound and lira.

The franc was 4.7 to the dollar after starting 4.79 against Friday's 4.56.

The franc, which opened five per cent down against the Deutsche mark, the hardest currency in the snake, reduced its loss to three per cent by the time the markets closed.

Cooperation pledge caps King's visit to Japan

(Continued from page 1) exists at this time. And in the foreseeable future it is not evident to me that much more can be accomplished until and unless the emphasis can be changed to concentrate on the Palestinian problem itself.

"This is the heart of the problem and this can only be done when the rights, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are recognised by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) may represent the Palestinian people to recover their rights. "We have said repeatedly

that Israel has a choice: territory or peace. She cannot have both."

King Hussein spoke in an opening address of the possibility or even the probability of war hanging over the Middle East.

But the King said peace was still attainable under the following points:

1 — the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and to establish an independent state in Palestine.

2 — the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes or be compensated for



SNAKE SPLIT. — The French Finance Minister announces France's decision to leave the EEC currency snake, in Brussels Monday. (AP wirephoto).

Niger Coup attempt fails

OUAGADOUGOU, Upper Volta, March 15, (AFP). — Niger today imposed a dusk to dawn curfew after troops loyal to President Seyni Kountche foiled an attempted coup, Niger Radio, monitored here, said today.

News of the abortive coup was broadcast earlier by Lt. Col. Kountche who said its three leaders, Major Bayere Moussa, Captain Sidi Mohamed and the Secretary-General of the National Union of Niger Workers Ahmed Moudour, had been arrested.

They said the ruling Supreme Military Council had the situation under control thanks to loyalist elements in the armed forces.

President Kountche, who himself came to power 22 months ago in a military coup overth-

rowing President Diori Hamani, appealed for calm and told people to "obey orders, which will be published in the press." Automatic rifle fire in Niamey's residential quarter was heard early this morning before President Kountche's broadcast, but there have been no reports of fighting or casualties in the coup attempt.

Major Moussa, the reported coup leader, lost his post as rural economic minister last month when President Kountche carried out a major cabinet reshuffle and replaced four military men with civilians.

The coup attempt was Niger's second within eight months. On August 2, the number two leader of the ruling Supreme Military Council, Sani Souma Sido, was arrested for plotting to seize power.

Poland ratifies West German agreement

WARSAW, March 15, (AFP). — The Polish Council of State today ratified an agreement with West Germany that will enable up to 125,000 Poles of German origin to emigrate to West Germany.

The same agreement was ratified unanimously by the West German Bundesrat (upper house of parliament) and signed into law by West German Pres-

ident Walter Scheel last week.

The accord, drawn up last June by Polish first secretary Edward Gierek and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, followed long and difficult negotiations. It is composed of three sections that:

— Grant Poland credits of \$ 400 million from West Ger-

Heads socialist International Kreisky starts M.E. tour Tuesday with Kuwait v

KUWAIT, March 15, (R). — Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky arrives here tomorrow at the start of a tour during which he will try to assure oil-exporting and other Arab sta-

tes that the Socialist International Organisation has no Arab bias.

It will be the third Kreisky has made on behalf of the Socialist International to improve its relations in the Arab world after Arab-Israeli war.

Israel's dominant Party has for many years affiliated with the International, which brings together ties in many countries, include Britain's ruling Party and social democrats now in power in Germany, Austria and Scandinavian countries.

In 1974, Dr Kreisky Socialist International to Egypt, Syria and Iran, a second mission last Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

Dr Kreisky is respected the Arab world as a statesman who has not allowed his Jewish background to Austria's relations with states, observers said.

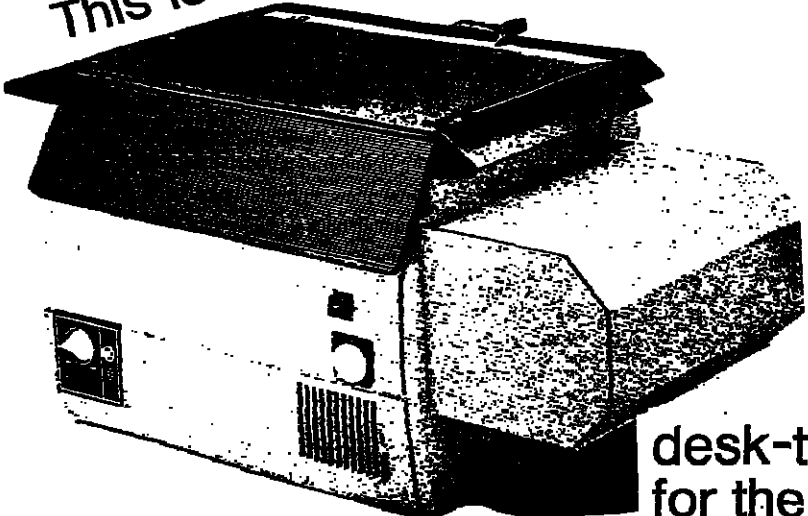
A group travelling with him on his new tour will include West German, French, and Swedish socialists.

Coming directly from Portugal, the Kreisky group expected to visit Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and the Arab Emirates (UAE) before reaching Kuwait.

The Emir of Kuwait, Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, is due to receive the mission tomorrow morning before formal discussions with Kuwaiti delegation led by Minister Abdel-Aziz Hu

Officials said the mission would leave Kuwait tomorrow afternoon but would not say what was its destination.

This is

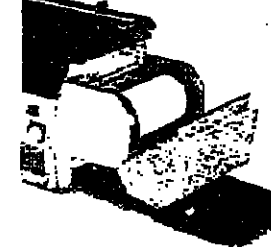


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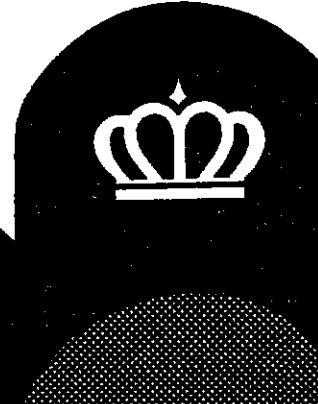
3 — the withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territory occupied since 1967.

Repeating a statement made earlier in his visit to Japan's top businessmen, King Hussein said: "We intend to become the manufacturing and industrial centre of the Arab World. We are at a turning point in our economic history and we intend to take full advantage of the momentum that is behind us."

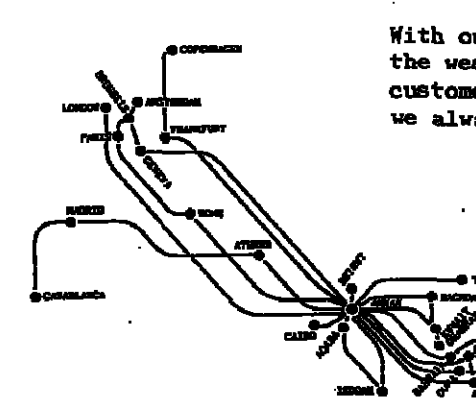
His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Miki agreed that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the territories occupied in the 1967 war and the respect for the integrity and security of the territories of all countries in the area in accordance with Security Council resolution 242, as well as the recognition of and the respect for the national rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the charter of the United Nations should be realised, according to a joint communiqué issued Monday evening.

The King and the Prime Minister took note of the importance of further promoting cooperation in the economic, trade, technical, scientific and cultural fields. His Majesty expressed his desire for Japan's financial and technical cooperation in support of Jordan's economic and social development plan for 1976-1980.

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